

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: THE DECIDING DIFFERENCE MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP INSTITUTE COURSE

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Lesson Description

Servant Leadership, a philosophy and set of practices meant to create a more just and caring world, has changed the way many people view their roles in professional organizations and government leadership. This course will go over the origins and principles of servant leadership, a comparative review of other key leadership styles, the benefits and criticisms of servant leadership, and how to become a servant leader.

Course Overview

1. What is Servant Leadership?
2. Five Key Styles of Leadership
3. Ten Principles of Servant Leadership
4. Advantages of Servant Leadership
5. Putting Servant Leadership Into Action

Discussion Questions

1. Review the ten principles of servant leadership as detailed in the course. Think about how these principles exist in your society - your home, your workplace, and your country. What types of cultural or behavioral changes would have to be made to create a climate for adoption of the servant leader philosophy? Are there circumstances where this philosophy would not work? Why?
2. Famous individuals who can be called servant leaders include Nelson Mandela, Mother Theresa, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi. How have each of these individuals embodied the principles of servant leadership? Which of the principles of servant leadership do you think each displayed the best? Can you think of individuals who are servant leaders?

Development Actions

1. Review the additional resources provided for this course at yali.state.gov/courses. Examine how you interact with your family, co-workers, and community. Commit to understanding and identifying how you can implement the principles of servant leadership.

About the Presenter

Sandra Edmonds Crewe, Ph.D., ACSW is dean and professor of social work at Howard University. Dr. Crewe received her appointment of dean in March 2015. Previously she held the position of interim dean, and associate dean for academic and student advancement. She has research, scholarship, and public advocacy in the areas of caregiving, aging, and welfare reform. Dr. Crewe holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from the National Catholic School of Social Service (Catholic University of America), and a Ph.D. in Social Work from Howard University. She is a 35 plus year member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers. She also holds a certificate from the Harvard Institute of Leadership and Management in Education through a Council on Social Work Education fellowship. Prior to joining the faculty, she served in executive level positions in the field of public and assisted housing.

